

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claims 16 and 17 as follows.

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16. (Currently Amended) A whipstock casing milling system comprising: a whipstock having a whipface, the whipface comprising a first ramp surface and a second ramp surface or parallel surface meeting the first ramp surface at a juncture, the first ramp surface being relatively steep compared to the second ramp surface, said surfaces being ramped or parallel relative to the longitudinal axis of the whipstock such that the first ramp surface is disposed at a greater angle to said longitudinal axis than the second ramp surface; a window mill secured to the whipstock adjacent the first ramp surface and operable in use to form an opening in a wellbore casing in which the whipstock casing milling system is located, milling elements of the window mill being engaged with and deflected by the first ramp surface laterally into the casing as the window mill is rotated and forced along the first ramp surface toward the second ramp or parallel surface; and a protrusion provided on the whipface, the protrusion forming an extension of the first ramp surface of the whipface so as to reduce damage to the first ramp surface at the juncture of the first ramp surface and the second ramp or parallel surface during use of the system, the first ramp surface and the extension together forming a mill deflecting slope; wherein the length of the extension ~~being is~~ such that, in use, (i) the surface area of the mill engaging said mill deflecting slope reduces as a consequence of the mill moving along and projecting beyond said mill deflecting slope, and (ii) an increase in stress in said slope due to said reduction in surface area ~~being is~~ maintainable below a level which would cause damage to said slope until the mill has

moved beyond the relatively steep ramp surface and is no longer in engagement therewith.

17. (Currently Amended) A whipstock casing mill system as claimed in claim 16, wherein a level of stress in said slope which would cause damage to said slope is attained ~~when~~ at the point where the mill moves beyond the first ramp surface and is no longer in engagement therewith.

C1 18. (Previously presented) A whipstock casing milling system as claimed in claim 16, wherein the protrusion is provided on the second ramp or parallel surface of the whipface.

19. (Previously presented) A whipstock casing milling system as claimed in claim 16, wherein the protrusion is removably secured to the whipface

20. (Previously presented) A whipstock casing milling system as claimed in claim 16, wherein the protrusion is removably secured to the whipface by at least one threaded fastener.

21. (Previously presented) A whipstock casing milling system as claimed in claim 16, wherein the protrusion comprises a surface which is ramped at the same angle relative to the longitudinal axis of the whipstock as the first ramp surface.

22. (Previously presented) A whipstock casing milling system as claimed in claim 21, wherein said ramped surface of the protrusion and the first ramp surface are ramped at an angle of 15° relative to the longitudinal axis of the